

Praise the Lord!

△ ps 146

Intro

The first of the Hallelujah Psalms

Ps 146-150

Closing the book of Psalms

Opening and closing with Praise the Lord!

The form the conclusion of the book of Psalms

Also echoing the themes that have come forward in the psalms

Instruction on the Torah

Trust God not human rulers

The Lord reigns

Contrast between the "righteous" and the "wicked"

Structure

v1-2 Inviting and announcing praise

v3-4 Instruction about what praise means

Exclusive loyalty to and trust in God rather than human rulers

v5-7b A beatitude

v7c-9 The Lord's care for the righteous

v10 Affirmation of God's reign

Can be ordered in a chiasmic structure

Handout

Talk about it...

This makes v5-7b the centre and the most important message

The centre is that God is there for those who believe in him

Beginning and end of the Psalms

Ps 146 recalls Ps 1-3 in a way that it summarises the whole Psalms

Ps 1 says that the ones that are "happy" live lives completely oriented on God

Ps 2 speaks about God's sovereign claim on the world

Ps 3 however signals that the righteous do not have a carefree existence

But Ps 146 groups the oppressed, the hungry, the imprisoned, etc, under the Righteous

God's reign is proclaimed amid circumstances that seem to deny it

But especially those in those circumstance can expect God's help

Whom shall we trust?

This is the question that this Psalm raises

Do we trust other people, including royalty or government?

Do we only trust ourselves and our own abilities

Or do we trust God?

Psalm 146 affirms this in three very strong statements

[^]v 7c - 9

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

The Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

The Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord watches over the strangers;

The Lord [he] upholds the orphan and the widow

The Lord [he brings] the way of the

wicked [...] to ruin.

It is all the Lord

and no-one else

Culminating in the final verse

¹⁰ **The Lord** will reign for ever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord!

Justice

Do we therefore trust God for his justice?

In the end, even though we may be suffering today

God will save us

And the wicked - those who do not trust God - they will be brought to ruin

It may not be in our life on earth time

But it is true in eternal time

As v10 says - The Lord will reign forever!

Jesus Christ

Ps 146 anticipates Jesus

Jesus preaching on the reign of God

△ Mark 1:14-15

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵ and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

Jesus teaching about happiness

³ 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Jesus work towards justice, feeding, liberation, healing and compassion

← When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' ⁴ Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

Therefore this a urgent call to praise God

In biblical terms, to praise God is to live

And to live is to praise God

Both in dedicated worship but also in our life-style

Do we live praising God?

Amen